

# SENATE, No. 801

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 211th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 5, 2004

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator DIANE ALLEN**

**District 7 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblyman JEFF VAN DREW**

**District 1 (Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland)**

**Assemblyman LOUIS MANZO**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

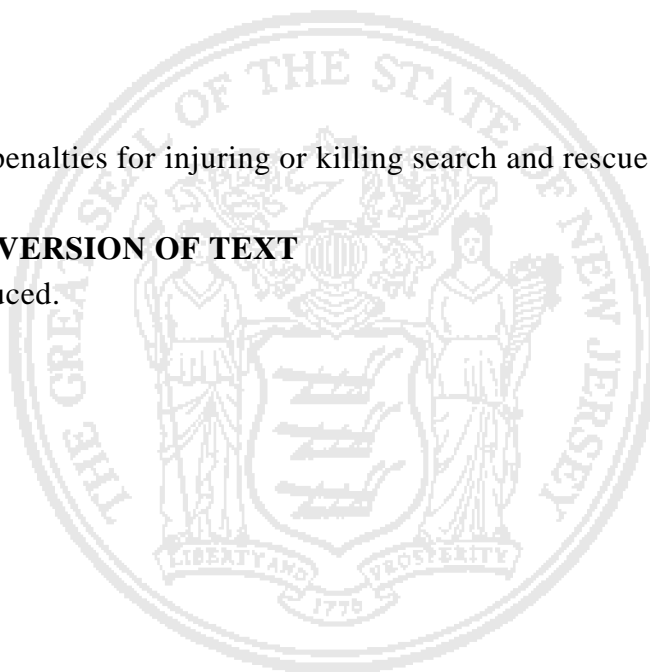
**Assemblymen Conaway, Corodemus, Dancer, Assemblywoman  
Greenstein, Assemblymen S.Kean, Munoz, Assemblywoman Weinberg,  
Assemblymen Chiappone, Conners and Stack**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides penalties for injuring or killing search and rescue dogs.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/14/2004)

1 AN ACT concerning certain dogs and amending P.L.1983, c.261.

2

3 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
4 *of New Jersey:*

5

6 1. Section 1 of P.L.1983, c.261 (C.2C:29-3.1) is amended to read  
7 as follows:

8 1. Any person who purposely kills a dog, horse or other animal  
9 owned or used by a law enforcement agency or a search and rescue  
10 dog shall be guilty of a crime of the third degree. Any person who  
11 purposely maims or otherwise inflicts harm upon a dog, horse or other  
12 animal owned or used by a law enforcement agency or a search and  
13 rescue dog shall be guilty of a crime of the fourth degree. Any person  
14 who interferes with any law enforcement officer using an animal in the  
15 performance of his official duties commits a disorderly persons  
16 offense, subject to a sentence of six months' imprisonment, some or all  
17 of which may be community service, restitution and a \$1,000.00 fine.

18 As used in this section, "search and rescue dog" means any dog  
19 trained or being trained for the purpose of search and rescue that is  
20 owned by an independent handler or member of a search and rescue  
21 team, and used in conjunction with local law enforcement or  
22 emergency services organizations for the purpose of locating missing  
23 persons or evidence of arson.

24 (cf: P.L.1999, c.14, s.1)

25

26 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

27

28

29

#### STATEMENT

30

31 P.L.1999, c.14 upgraded the penalties for injuring or killing dogs  
32 and other animals owned or used by law enforcement agencies. This  
33 bill would include search and rescue dogs in that law's provisions.  
34 Under the bill's provisions, it would be a crime of the third degree to  
35 kill a search and rescue dog; it would be a crime of the fourth degree  
36 to maim or inflict harm upon a search and rescue dog. The bill defines  
37 a search and rescue dog as any dog trained or being trained for the  
38 purpose of search and rescue that is owned by an independent handler  
39 or member of a search and rescue team, and used in conjunction with  
40 local law enforcement or emergency services organizations for the  
41 purpose of locating missing persons or evidence of arson.

42 These dogs are commonly used for locating injured and trapped  
43 persons during catastrophes, such as earthquakes. The bill is modeled  
44 on Arkansas legislation.

**EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**